Statement-II

Criteria for upgradation of branch post offices in the country

(a) **In Rural Areas:**

The minimum work load of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office, proposed to be upgraded, should be five hours per day. The permissible limit of annual loss is Rs. 2400/- in Normal Rural areas and Rs. 4800/- in Tribal and hilly areas.

(b) In Urban Areas:

In Urban areas, the post office should initially be self-supporting and at the time of the first annual review, it should show a 5% profit to be eligible for further retention.

The minimum distance between two post offices should be 1.5 Kms. in cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above, and 2 Kms. in other Urban Areas. No two-delivery offices, however, should be closer than 5 Kms. for each other.

Heads of Circles have powers to relax the distance condition in 10% of the cases.

A Delivery Post Office in Urban Area should have a minimum of 7 Postmen's beats.

Telephone Cable Link to Panchapalli village

2227. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Panchapalli village (Erasama block) of Jagatsinghpur district in Orissa is deprived of underground/overhead telephone cable link;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the reasons for faulty functioning of WLL technology in this village;

(d) the steps Government propose to take against officers responsible for this stepmontherly attitude towards Panchapalli villagers

who stopped the work of laying cable near Champahat (Dihasahi); and

(e) by when, Government would provide underground/overhead cable link to Panchapalli and open an exchange to facilitate communication network?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Panchapalli village (Erasama Block) of Jagatsinghpur district is 8 Kms. from the nearest exchange Dihasahi. It is not technically feasible to provide connection on land line. VPTs in the areas have been provided on Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) from the nearest Base station at Paradeep. Occasional faults observed in the WLL system are being attended within the reasonable time.

(d) and (e) As Panchapalli village is covered by a WLL system, a separate telephone exchange is not justified as per BSNL norms. The telepohne connections would be provided from the nearest WLL base station after expansion.

Opening of Mukhya Dak Ghar

2228. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced a new scheme for opening of "Mukhya Dak Ghar" at all the Talukas places across the country;

(b) if so, the name of the Taluka in Jajpur district of Orissa, which do not have a Mukhya Dak Ghar; and

(c) the steps taken to open Mukhya Dak Ghar at all the Talukas in Jajpur District of Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) No, Sir. Mukhya Dak Ghars have been set up by 01.04.2002 at Headquarters of Districts not having any Head